

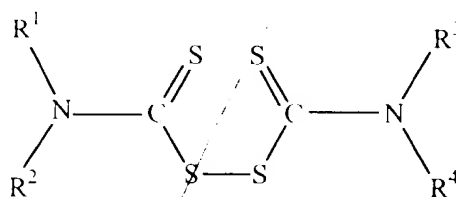
wherein R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ each are the same or different and are hydrocarbons of between 8 and 18 carbon atoms, optionally containing one or more heterocyclic groups, or R¹ and R² and/or R³ and R⁴ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are joined together to form a heterocyclic group, optionally containing one or more heterocyclic atoms, it being provided that diphenyl guanidine is substantially absent in the rubber composition.

10. (Amended) The rubber composition of Claim 1 wherein R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ each are hydrocarbons of between 12 and 14 carbon atoms.

15. (Amended) The rubber composition of Claim 1 having a Mooney Scorch value greater than that of a similar rubber composition in which a significant amount up to the entire amount of the thiuram disulfide accelerator is replaced with diphenyl guanidine accelerator.

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16. (Amended) A method for increasing the Mooney Scorch value of a rubber composition which comprises the steps of forming a rubber composition comprising (a) a rubber component; (b) a silica filler; and, (c) at least one thiuram disulfide accelerator of the general formula



wherein R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ each are the same or different and are hydrocarbons of between 8 and 18 carbon atoms, optionally containing one or more heterocyclic groups, or R¹ and R² and/or R³ and R⁴ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are joined together to form a heterocyclic group, optionally containing one or more heterocyclic atoms, it being provided that diphenyl guanidine is substantially absent in the rubber composition.

22. (Amended) The method of Claim 16 wherein R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ of the thiuram disulfide each are hydrocarbons of between 12 and 14 carbon atoms.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 8, 9, 20 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice and Claims 1, 10, 15, 16 and 22 have been amended. Applicants attach Appendix A hereto containing a marked up version of original Claims 1, 10, 15, 16 and 22. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the subject application nor have any new issues been raised by this amendment. Moreover, it is submitted that the claims as now presented place the subject application in condition for immediate allowance.